



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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EIGHT BELLES WINNER OBLIGATORY HEADLINES SATURDAY'S CHILUKKI

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2021) – Juddmonte's homebred Obligatory, the one-length winner of the \$300,000 Eight Belles (Grade II) on Kentucky Oaks day, tops a field of eight fillies and mares that were entered in Saturday's \$300,000 Chilukki (GIII) at Churchill Downs.

The one-mile Chilukki will go as Race 10 of 11 with a post time of 5:36 p.m. (all times Eastern). First post is 1 p.m.

Obligatory was the 16-1 upset winner of the seven-furlong Eight Belles for 3-year-old fillies on April 30. Trained by Hall of Famer **Bill Mott**, Obligatory finished second in the \$500,000 Acorn (GI) and \$1 million Cotillion (GI). In her last start, Obligatory finished an enigmatic sixth in the \$250,000 Raven Run (GII). Jockey **Joel Rosario** has the call for the Chilukki and drew post No. 7.

Also entered in Saturday's 36th running of the Chilukki is **CJ Thoroughbreds, Left Turn Racing** and **Casner Racing's** accomplished 5-year-old mare **Sally's Curlin**. Trained by **Dale Romans**, Sally's Curlin will attempt to become the first horse to win multiple editions of the Chilukki. She won the race in 2019 by three-quarters of a length. Sally's Curlin will be ridden by **Brian Hernandez Jr.** from post 2.

Another top contender in the Chilukki field is multiple stakes winner **Matera**. Owned by **Don Alberto Stable** and trained by **Brad Cox**, Matera won the \$125,000 Groupie Doll at Ellis Park and the \$85,000 Mari Hulman George Memorial at Indiana Grand. The gray 4-year-old filly will be reunited with jockey **Florent Geroux** from post 3.

The complete field for the Chilukki from the rail out (with jockey and trainer): **She Can't Sing** (Tyler Gaffalione, Chris Block); Sally's Curlin (Hernandez, Romans); Matera (Geroux, Cox); **Miss Bigly** (Martin Garcia, Phil D'Amato); **Pass the Plate** (Joe Talamo, Paul McGee); **Its Cold in Dehere** (Ricardo Santana Jr. Norm Casse); Obligatory (Rosario, Mott); and **Princess Causeway** (Chris Landeros, Ian Wilkes).

Wagering is available online at www.TwinSpires.com, the official ADW of Churchill Downs Incorporated.

MEET LEADERS – Jockeys **Tyler Gaffalione** and **Mitchell Murrill** entered Wednesday's nine-race card tied at the top of the standings with 13 wins. **Brian Hernandez Jr.** was in third with 11 victories. ... Hall of Fame trainer **Steve Asmussen** held a 10-6 win lead in the standings over **Brad Cox** and **Chris Hartman**. ... **Bell's the One**, the winner of Saturday's \$300,000 Dream Supreme, helped her owner **Lothenbach Stables** secure the lead in the owner standings with three wins.

TV SCHEDULE – Racing from Churchill Downs will air each race day on the Churchill Downs LIVE app. The app is available free of charge on streaming services such as Amazon, Apple TV and Roku. Most races also will be covered on the Fox Sports family of networks as part of "America's Day at the Races." Here is the updated TV schedule for racing this week:

- Wednesday: 1-6 p.m., Fox Sports 2
- Thursday: 12-6 p.m., Fox Sports 2
- Friday: 12-6 p.m., Fox Sports 2
- Saturday: 11:30 a.m. – 6 p.m., Fox Sports 2
- Sunday, Nov. 21: 11:30 a.m. – 4 p.m., Fox Sports 2 | 4-6 p.m. Fox Sports 1

BENEFIT FOR THE BACKSIDE DAY AT THE RACES IS FRIDAY – The **Backside Learning Center**, an organization dedicated to building community and enriching the lives of equine workers and families at Churchill Downs, will hold its largest annual fundraiser, "**Benefit for the Backside: A Day at the Races**" Friday at Churchill Downs.

The event is sold out, but the Backside Learning Center is hosting an online silent auction with many unique horseracing and other hard to find items and experiences, including a year-long membership to Louisville Thoroughbred Society, a private tour of Spendthrift Farm, AirBnB experiences, top-shelf bourbon packages and much more. In addition, the Backside Learning Center will conduct a "Thurby Suite for 40" raffle drawing including food and drink (a \$9,000 value.)

The Backside Learning Center plans to host several Facebook Lives at the event to present their transformative work with equine workers and families and will recognize participating families as well as a volunteer who has demonstrated an extraordinary level of dedication to develop young leaders.

Interested parties can join the online auction, purchase a raffle ticket for a "Thurby Suite for 40" or donate by visiting www.BenefitForTheBackside.com.

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DOWN THE STRETCH – Racing continued Wednesday at Churchill Downs for a nine-race program that began at 1 p.m. There was an \$88,050 jackpot carryover in the 20-cent Derby City 6 that spanned Races 4-9 and a \$1 Super Hi 5 carryover in Race 9 of \$3,491. ... Hall of Fame trainer **D. Wayne Lukas** dipped into the Churchill Downs claim box Sunday for the first time since 2005. The five-time Kentucky Derby-winning conditioner won a seven-way shake on **Miacomet**, who won the opening race: a maiden claiming event for \$50,000. ... Kentucky Derby (GI) fifth-place finisher **O Besos** continued to work at Churchill Downs following five months on the sidelines. The Orb colt worked an easy half-mile in :49.80 Wednesday. Ten minutes following his work, his 2-year-old half-brother **What's Up Doc** breezed a half-mile in :49.40 outside of **B D Valeski**. ... Promising 3-year-old colt **Cody's Wish**, who reeled off back-to-back victories at Churchill Downs, worked a swift half-mile in :47.40 Tuesday. It was the second fastest of 42 horses at the distance. ... Jockey **Joe Rocco Jr.** will stay in Kentucky this winter to ride at Turfway Park and be represented by agent **Steve Bass**. Rocco previously spent the winter at Oaklawn while Bass, the longtime agent for **Julien Leparoux**, has been on the sidelines for nearly one year after battling health issues. ... The 2021 season finale of “**Inside Churchill Downs**” will air Friday at 6 p.m. on ESPN 680/105.7. The show is streamed live online at www.espnloouisville.com. ... For more information about the Fall Meet, visit www.churchilldowns.com.

ABOUT CHURCHILL DOWNS RACETRACK

Churchill Downs Racetrack (“CDRT”), the world’s most legendary racetrack, has been the home of The Kentucky Derby, the longest continually held annual sporting event in the United States, since 1875. Located in Louisville, CDRT features a series of themed race days during Derby Week, including the Kentucky Oaks, and conducts Thoroughbred horse racing during three race meets in the Spring, September, and the Fall. CDRT is located on 175 acres and has a one-mile dirt track, a 7/8-mile turf track, a stabling area, and provides seating for approximately 60,000 guests. The saddling paddock and the stable area has barns sufficient to accommodate 1,400 horses and a 114-room dormitory for backstretch personnel. CDRT also has a year-round simulcast wagering facility. www.ChurchillDowns.com.

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